

REMARKS

Claims 4-6 are pending. Claims 4 and 6 have been amended. No new matter is presented.

Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Demiray, U.S. Patent 5,740,157. This rejection is respectfully overcome.

Claims 4 and 6 have been amended to clarify that the interface modules always contain data and information which is to be transmitted via the parallel signal lines and that a failure of one of the interface modules is immediately dealt with by signal line switching with a switching time of approximately 50 ms. Demiray does not disclose that interface modules always contain data and information to be transmitted or that a failure is immediately dealt with by signal line switching with a switching time of approximately 50 ms.

As asserted previously, Demiray discloses that an algorithm determines which of the A or B modules will be selected to carry the active copy of the information traffic (col. 3, lines 4-8). Thus, Demiray cannot disclose that the interface modules always contain data and information to be transmitted. According to the device of Demiray, it will take longer to compensate for a line failure than with the device of the present claims. Accordingly, the features of claims 4-6 are not taught or suggested by Demiray and Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection

with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122032700.

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Respectfully submitted,

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